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| **The Wise Group – Journey to Employment for ESA** |
| **Specialist Support for: Jobless residents in Dundee**  |
| **What are we doing and how are we doing it?** | Each customer is assessed individually to see what help/support can be offered in relation to their current circumstances. If the individual feels they are capable of working/looking for work within the 12 weeks of the programme, then an individual action plan is tailored around their personal aims/objectives. A structured programme of activity and support is thereafter put in place to achieve a positive outcome over the course of the session, drawing on the support and encouragement of their peers within the group. Support is provided in order to help the individual overcome their barriers or at least move in the right direction of overcoming them whilst on the programme. The attendees on J2E are commonly really far removed from the work place or have severe barriers to employment which aren’t always able to be addressed in such a short space of time. However, over the course of the 12 weeks various forms of support are provided to help address these barriers. Additional support is provided by a variety of partner agencies both during and as a follow up to the sessions being completed. If the client is ready and willing to look at Employability Training then this takes place on weeks 8 through to week 12 of the Journey 2 Employment session. A full range of employability soft skills training is available and clients also have access to a broad range of academic awards via Sector Based Work Academies provided by The Wise Group in areas such as Manual Handling, First Aid, Food Hygiene, customer service and Construction.The J2E Community Employment Specialist engages with our Employability Engagement Officers based within the Wise Group and other agencies to assess the range of opportunities that are available for consideration for clients attending the sessions. Options involving work experience/placements, flexible work tasters, work shadowing and possible job opportunities are considered. Regular contact is also maintained with Jobcentre plus in order to discuss employment opportunities for J2E clients as well as liaising directly with employers to discuss vacancies. The J2E Employment Specialist and Coach also provide ongoing support to individual clients /groups to carry out job searching as well as helping them apply for jobs and all associated preparation that goes with any subsequent interviews etc. Once an attendee of J2E secures employment then an In Work Support service is provided. This can cover any aspect a client or employer needs in order to offer support to ensure a job is sustainable to both the client and the employer. |
| **Who’s Eligible?** | Jobless clients who must be in receipt of ESA as a benefit and have had their assessment carried out after 3rd April 2017. J2E is a voluntary service therefore clients must be willing to attend the session of their own volition.  |
| **Target Audience:** | Jobless clients who are on Employment and Support Allowance (ESA). |
| **When can we apply?** | Any time by putting a referral through Jobcentre Plus Dundee.  |
| **Where will it be held?** | The Engine Room, 154 West Marketgait, Dundee, DD1 1NJ |
| **How do we refer?** | Referrals are made through Jobcentre Plus work coaches. |
| **Contact Details** | Name: Derek Smith, Community Employment Specialist Tel: 01382 797817/07702518196 |
| **Stages Covered** | 1,2,3,4,5 |
| Additional Information |